

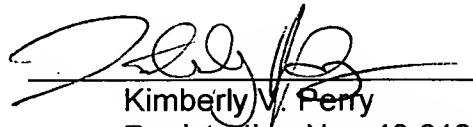
II. Claims 16-44, drawn to a method for establishing vascular access.

Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute claims 16-44. Please cancel claims 1-15 and 45-50 without prejudice.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3/16/04



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